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# La Voz Diaria

## The Daily Voice

The Daily Newsletter of NOPHNRCSE's 11th Annual Training Conference

### Sacramento County Tour By Amanda Hasemeier, Pennsylvania

Consumnes River Preserve was created to safeguard the landscape of natural basins, vernal pools, and wildlife habitat. The river is the only undammed river out of the Sierra Nevada. In 1984, the Nature Conservancy began to buy up land for the preserve; NRCS has WRP easements on the property. It's an important location for migratory birds, especially the sandhill crane. The swainson hawk is a threatened species, but has been spotted in the preserve.



Preserve work is dedicated to restoring native grasses and the California Valley oak. Work continues on making the land use compatible with human impacts. The tour buses drove along rice fields growing organic rice in such a manner that the crop grows and attracts the birds. Egrets stand out sparklingly over the growing rice fields.



*Byron Kunisawa, Cultural Solutions Inc.*

### Diversity and Change: Formula for Success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

By Maridely Loyselle

Byron Kunisawa, Cultural Solutions, said a nation as rich in diversity as the United States is not effectively using all its multicultural values. Kunisawa, in a very simple way, said that we need to start to integrate our culture. This nation gives the message, "it's okay to be Irish, Italian, Latino, but keep it at home." We live in a society that profiles people and places them in groups and they don't see individuals. To change this, it is necessary to identify the system problem of how people are getting excluded or discriminated. We need to start

doing changes. Change can be very difficult especially because we are taking the risk of trying and doing something different. We need to change the requirement of not just being a nation that says it is more democratic, but also be a nation in which individuals can be who they are without being afraid. In times where everything is globalized, there is no space for, "are you from here?" or "if you don't like it, you should go back to where you came from." In a country of immigrants, there should be space for different ideas. "Being different is what makes us unique and special and that shouldn't be difficult to understand."

### Workshop Summaries:

#### MESA Engineering Program-

#### Dr. Walter V. Luscutoff and Mr. Hernan R. Maldonado

Summary by Rick Rodriguez, Design Engineer- Temple, TX

MESA (Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement) is a program that's helping educationally disadvantaged engineering students succeed in and graduate college. The program exposes high school students to engineering and helps with tutoring and mentoring once in college. The program also provides orientation courses, career advising, links with other professionals, a student study center, and professional development workshops.

### Announcements:

- **Drop your \$10 donation for the hospitality room (Room 1629) at the registration table.**

- **Awards Banquet is TONIGHT! Get your dancing shoes ready!**

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### Visit the Hospitality Room

Would you like to visit and network with NOPHNRCSE friends? Come check out the Hospitality Room. Carlos Velasquez, Hospitality Room Chair, will be accepting donations at the registration table and in the room itself. He will also be the Hospitality Room Host! Thank you Carlos.

Unfortunately, the MEP (MESA Engineering Program) operating budget was completely eliminated for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. MEP needs \$100,000 to continue in operation for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. MEP requested help from NRCS and audience suggested that they contact NRCS for workforce plans to see if assistance could be provided.

## Progress Reporting Systems- New Developments, Letitia Toomer Summary by Athena Pratt

The agency is accountable for the money received and how it is spent. Our work is important for the environment and we need to be accountable to receive more funding. The Bush administration is determined to make the government results-oriented.

The links between Toolkit, Protracts, PRS, Conservation Guides, National Conservation Practice Database and other systems will be better integrated. Example: direct entry in PRS will then populate Toolkit immediately. CTA information will go to PRS from Toolkit while program information will go from Protracts. You can check prior entries by searching by plan, land unit or practice.

There is no way to know who entered progress information or which planner accomplished a goal. There is no way to delete a plan in PRS.

Short-Term Developments: Next Generation Toolkit, Conservation System Guides will have more functionality and additional PRS training will be provided.

Long-Term Goals: Conservation Journal-PDA or laptop used to enter activities for the day and can develop plans without having to go into numerous computer systems (it automatically feeds to Protracts, PRS and TCAS).

The bottom line in government is not profit loss or gain, but performance results. Please forward PRS training and improvement suggestions to Ken Tootle, National PRS contact at [ktootle@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:ktootle@ftw.nrcs.usda.gov).

## GPS Technology in the Field- Summary by Maridely Loyselle

GPS requires four satellites in order to have required accuracy. The satellites provide the information to give position, velocity and time. A basic introduction of the GPS system and its capacities were discussed, followed by requirements for using GPS in the field. For full resources and tutorials on GPS equipment visit [www.ncgc.usda.gov](http://www.ncgc.usda.gov).

